

NA KOUANG STOL SITE 36
NA KOUANG, LAOS
19-58N 103-29E

CONFIDENTIAL

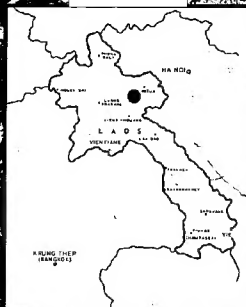


25X1

PRE STRIKE

POST STRIKE

25X1
25X1



POSSIBLE
S-61 HELICOPTERS

SUPPORT BUILDINGS

MAINTENANCE AREA

GARRISON

PROBABLE HELIO

POSSIBLE
H-34 HELICOPTER

ARTILLERY POSITION

M-6229 (4/69) NPIC

DESTROYED
MAINTENANCE AREA

DAMAGED
SUPPORT BUILDINGS

GARRISON DESTROYED

BOMB CRATERS

DESTROYED
ARTILLERY POSITION

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

SECRET

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NA KOUANG (STOL SITE 36)
NA KOUANG, LAOS
1958N 10329E

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

NA KOUANG (STOL SITE 36) WAS AN IMPORTANT STAGING AREA FOR FRIENDLY GUERRILA FORCES OPERATING IN NORTHEAST LAOS.

2. LOCATION:

MILITARY REGION II, XIANGKHOANG PROVINCE, LAOS.

3. BACKGROUND:

AFTER SEVERAL PREVIOUS ATTACKS THE GARRISON FELL TO ENEMY FORCES ON 1 MARCH 1969.

4. MISSION READOUT:

POST STRIKE COVERAGE OF NA KOUANG (STOL SITE 36) ON 15 MARCH REVEALED THAT THE AIR STRIKE HAD BEEN RENDERED UNSERVICEABLE BY AIRSTRIKES, AND THAT THE GARRISON AND MAINTENANCE AREAS HAD BEEN DESTROYED.

5. REMARKS:

ON 1 MARCH 1969 AN ESTIMATED THREE TO FIVE NORTH VIETNAMESE BATTALIONS ATTACKED AND CAPTURED NA KOUANG (STOL SITE 36). PREVIOUS ATTACKS ON THE INSTALLATION HAD COME FROM THE EAST, THUS THE EASTERN AREA WAS THE STRONGEST IN THE NA KOUANG DEFENSES. AFTER SEVERAL PROBING PATROLS DURING FEBRUARY THE MAIN THRUST OF THE ENEMY'S ATTACK CAME FROM THE NORTHWEST AND WEST WHERE THERE WERE FEW MANNED OUTPOSTS

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GROUP 1: EXCLUDED FROM
AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING
AND DECLASSIFICATION

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AND THE DEPLOYED STRENGTH THE WEAKEST. ALL OUTPOSTS AROUND NA KOUANG, INCLUDING A TACTICAL NAVIGATIONAL AID INSTALLATION IN THE HILLS TO THE NORTHWEST, WERE TAKEN BY THE COMMUNISTS.

THE 600 MAN GOVERNMENT FORCE REPORTEDLY SUFFERED HEAVY CASUALTIES, MANY OF WHICH OCCURED WHEN THEY WERE AMBUSHED SHORTLY AFTER LEAVING THE GARRISON RETREATING TO THE SOUTHWEST.

THE DEFENDERS DESTROYED THEIR ARTILLERY WEAPONS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT BEFORE WITHDRAWING. APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR AFTER THE GOVERNMENT FORCES VACATED THE AREA A C-130 GUN SHIP AND FIVE STRIKE AIRCRAFT BOMBED AND STRAFED THE NA KOUANG GARRISON. THIS COUPLED WITH TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT DURING THE ATTACK, REPORTEDLY INFLICTED HEAVY CASUALTIES ON THE ENEMY FORCES.

THERE HAD BEEN A LARGE ENEMY FORCE PRESENT AROUND NA KOUANG FOR SOME TIME, BUT CONTACT WITH GOVERNMENT TROOPS HAD BEEN LIGHT. IN MID-JANUARY GENERAL VANG PAO REDUCED THE GOVERNMENT STRENGTH AT NA KOUANG BY ONE-HALF TO REINFORCE GOVERNMENT POSITIONS IN THE SOUTHERN AREA OF MILITARY REGION 2. THIS ACTION APPARENTLY HELPED INFLUENCE THE COMMUNISTS' DECISION TO ATTACK NA KOUANG.

MISSION

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MAP REF: JOG NE 48-1

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